

**TOWN OF PEACHAM
SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
Town Hall Meeting Room
Wednesday October 7, 2015 6:30PM**

Present:

Selectboard: Annette Lorraine, Nate Giroux, and David Jacobs

Clerk to the Selectboard: Melissa Laurita Kohl

Public: Don Jones, Craig Morris, Mike Bruton, Cheryl Stevenson, Eric Esser, Sue Kiley, Matt Kiley, Jonathan Kaplan, Lynne Bonfield

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Nate Giroux at 6:36 PM.

1) Additions

- a) Winter Carnival
- b) Executive Session for private and confidential personnel issue

2) Minutes:

- a) Annette made a few minor changes to the minutes.
- b) **Annette moves to approve the amended minutes of 10/7/15. Nate seconds. So moved.**

3) Peacham Pathway through Village

- a) The Selectboard presented a draft plan for the Village Walkway. It will be open to public comment for the rest of October. It will be available on the website and at the Town Clerk's Office.
- b) Public gave input on the pathway. The Selectboard asked for all comments in writing.
- c) Cheryl discussed concerns over liability and using the cemetery's tractor for winter maintenance of the path. She also discussed the possibility of using the school's snow blower if the school board agrees.
- d) Matt said he did his assignment and researched the legal width of Bayley Hazen Rd through the village center. It's 49.5 feet from the center line. He submitted his research, along with past Selectboard minutes regarding the pathway so the current Selectboard could see the history.
- e) Lynne said that she was very concerned about the pesticides because she walks it every day and if sprays are used she will walk in the street. Nate said that the Selectboard will not be using sprays on anything anymore because of the feedback from the public.

4) Eric Esser Re: Culvert

- a) Eric came in to discuss the replacement of a culvert on his property. He said that it needed to be done and the work was good, especially on the outlet side. But he was concerned about the removal of historic stone on the inlet side and the addition of unsightly granite rip rap [erosion stone]. He read the hydraulics manual and understands why the erosion stone was used but he is not sure it needed to be done because the property is at the top of a hill and there is a wide flat lawn which is like a leach field.
- b) Nate said that you cannot see the erosion stone that was put down on Old Cemetery Rd. In a couple of years, Eric should not be able to see his erosion stone either.
- c) Nate explained that Peacham is trying to get closer to State standards so that the Town remains eligible for FEMA money and grants. That is why the road foreman did the culvert work the way he did.
- d) Annette said that right now the state is offering the Town a carrot but the State will start using a stick. FEMA is coming down hard on the whole State of Vermont because Vermont has so many dirt roads.

- e) The road foreman, Jeremy, has been to a lot of workshops and knows what the State of Vermont wants for better back roads.
 - f) Annette said that Eric could do whatever he wants to improve the look of the culvert as long as Jeremy approves it.
- 5) Update on shared PCH (Kinnerson) drive for cemetery and PHA use
- a) Draft Access Easement
 - i) Everyone has viewed it and Peacham Historical Association has signed it.
 - ii) Mike wanted to know if the yearly maintenance verbage was changed on it. Annette said it was and read it aloud.
 - iii) Town and PHA reserve right to withdraw from easement at any time.
 - iv) **Annette makes a motion to give Nate the authority to sign the Selectboard's acceptance of the access easement and give it to VHCB and Housing VT. David seconds. So moved.**
 - b) Review Estimates from Contractors for Proposed Work this Fall
 - i) The Selectboard received two bids for this work. One is from Garren Calkins for \$8200. Allen Thresher for \$6475, but his plan is a little different. David is going to call Allen as the low bid to make sure the work will meet their needs. Annette will let PHA know that the cost will be a little more than they expected.
 - ii) Annette wants the access easement to be signed before paying for any work; she is hoping it will be signed by all parties by next meeting.
- 6) Roller Barn
- a) Nate said that Ray Young will finish the work before snow flies.
 - b) The Selectboard received the report from the historical expert. He said that the Selectboard should figure out a way to have better lighting [there is no electricity]; consider having a handicapped parking space; and he agrees with the idea for side door and ramp.
- 7) Farnham Property Tax Appeal to the Superior Court
- a) Farnham appealed to the Superior Court
 - b) The Selectboard needs to choose a lawyer to represent the Town. The choices are between their lawyer in Burlington who has a lot of appeal experience, but is more expensive and must travel from Burlington and their lawyer in Danville who is local, more affordable, and while she does not have courtroom experience on tax appeals, is knowledgable and willing to learn more. She will not bill for her learning time.
 - c) The Selectboard decided that their lawyer, Judy, from Danville will represent the Town in the appeal.
- 8) Peacham Fire District (PFD) re: Snowblower
- a) PFD wanted to know if mowing the watershed [a small plot] could be added to town mowing. PFD would pay for their share of the mowing. Watershed only needs to be mowed once a month. Nate said that could probably work.
 - b) Jonathan said that the Village walkway had been maintained by private citizens. They don't think a snowblower will do. PFD is very willing to buy a snowblower attachment for the cemetery tractor and to keep the tractor maintained through winter.
 - c) They suggested that one or two locals could become seasonal employees of the Town so they could use the tractor. Technically it is PFD's responsibility to maintain the path, but PFD could always fold if it's too expensive.
 - d) Nate requested that the PFD put this proposal in writing.
- 9) Winter Carnival
- a) Dina Danielson and a group of volunteers are heading up another winter carnival this year. The Selectboard is the recreation department. Dina asked the

Selectboard to sponsor it again. This is basically the same letter the Selectboard signed for fourth of July.

- b) Annette moves that the Selectboard sponsor the Winter Carnival and that the Selectboard signs this letter that sponsors the winter carnival every year unless the Town or Winter Carnival committee says otherwise. David seconds. So moved.**

10) Town Clerk Update

- a) Town clerk supplied a printed budget.
- b) The Selectboard will read the budget at home and come in with any questions.

11) Interview for Lister Position

- a) The Selectboard interviewed Don Jones for the lister position. He has a background as a pilot in the airforce and is in Peacham because his fathers family was all from this area in the 1700s and 1800s.
- b) The Selectboard offered the position to Don Jones at a starting rate of \$14 an hour. The position comes to a vote at Town Meeting Day.
- c) David moves to appoint Don Jones as a lister. Nate seconds. So moved.**

12) Executive Session

- a) Nate moves to go into Executive Session for Personnel at 7:42pm. Annette seconds. So moved.**
- b) Nate moves to come out of 8:01pm. Annette seconds. So moved.**
- c) Selectboard made a rate change for a road crew member.**

13) Annual Town Meeting Location

- a) Nate moves to go into executive session at 8:02pm to review confidential information from our lawyer regarding town meeting day location. Annette seconds. So moved.**
- b) Nate moves to come out of executive session at 8:12pm. Annette seconds. So moved.**
- c) No action taken.**

14) Review and approve bills

- a) The Selectboard reviewed and approved bills.

15) Review correspondence

- a) The Selectboard reviewed and approved correspondence.

David moves to adjourn at 8:21pm. Nate seconds. So moved.